

California Water Plan Update 2005

THE AC VIEW

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Advisory Committee
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Thoughts on the
California
Department of
Water Resource's
(DWR) Water Plan
Update Public
Review Draft

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE VIEW

June 2005

This California Water Plan Update 2005, the eighth since 1957, comprehensively reviews the state's water problems and opportunities. Like California, the plan update has changed since 1957. A growing population, increased pressures on our natural environment, concerns about drinking water quality, costs, and many unknowns including climate change are now water planning considerations.

A diverse group of people assisted in developing the plan by serving on an Advisory Committee. The group represented organizations and interests concerned with water resources management. Some of us, including Native Americans and environmental justice groups, had not been represented in past advisory committees. Knowing the plan was DWR's and not ours, we shared suggestions and concerns and posed tough questions. We served as advisors.

As a group, we agreed on many things, but not everything. We expected this. This document explains things we mostly agreed about, describes where we do not agree, and notes the places we still have questions.

We encourage you to read the Public Review Draft thoroughly, participate in the public review process, and offer your comments. This solid planning effort deserves your attention.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document offers the many perspectives of the Water Plan Update appointed Public Advisory Committee. It does not represent a policy or view of the DWR, the facilitators or any individual Public Advisory Committee member or member organization. The sole purpose of this document is to share the differing perspectives of the Advisory Committee in order to help the public understand more about the deliberations leading to the Water Plan Update.

AREAS OF SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT

Members of the Advisory Committee generally agreed about Using a different approach than in the past. The plan was developed with a large, diverse, and vocal Advisory Committee and extended public involvement. Computer technology helped DWR keep Advisory Committee members and the public up-to-date and informed. Activities and information related to the plan can easily be found at <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/>.

Using the document as both a policy-guiding strategic plan and a source of technical information. The Advisory Committee felt a strategic plan, as opposed to a pure technical plan, would help Californians better plan and assess state water management.

A need for more information than is now available. We worked with DWR to create a phased work plan. The plan outlines a schedule to develop improved analytical tools and data. Most desired new work will be completed as part of a 3-phase work plan. The group believes this will help DWR meet Water Code and other legal requirements in the next update. The information will also help local and regional agencies with integrated water resource planning and management. Phased work plan details are found on page 1-5 of Volume 1: Strategic Plan.

(Continued on page 2 ...)

The 2005 Advisory Committee Who We Were, What We Did

- A diverse group, we represented organizations and interests concerned with water resources management.
- Some, including Native Americans and environmental justice groups, had not been represented in past advisory committees.
- Because the plan was DWR's, not ours; we shared suggestions and concerns and posed tough questions.

Managing the Differences

- We served as advisors.
- As a group, we agreed on many things, but not everything. We expected this.
- The AC View explains things we mostly agreed about, describes where we do not agree, and notes the places we still have questions.

AREAS OF SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT

- Using a different approach than in the past.
- Using the document as both a policy guiding strategic plan and a source of technical information.
- A need for more information than is now available.
- A phased work plan.

More Agreement

- Clear mission and vision statements, five high-level goals, fourteen recommendations, and specific action items for each of the fourteen recommendations.
- Clear statements on essential support activities including better application of environmental justice criteria and greater inclusion of underserved communities in planning and decision making, with special sensitivity to the unique obligations to Native American communities.

And MORE

- The presentation of links to CALFED
- The importance of water quality to protecting California's waters.
- The presentation of a good balance between data and policies.
- Incorporation of information from the state's *General Plan Guidelines* to promote a better link between water supply planning and local land use planning.
- Responsible Approach to Climate change

We Left Some Work for the New AC!!



Sometimes the Advisory Committee did not agree with DWR and/or one another on various aspects of the plan. It was difficult for DWR to address the sometimes-competing interests of the Advisory Committee members. To some extent this represents different philosophical approaches to dealing with California water problems.

AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT AMONG ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- New surface storage, linked to the CalFed program.
- The utility, cost-effectiveness, and need for additional surface storage
- The degree of ecological damage that occurs and/or should be tolerated in development of additional water supply.
- Estimation of implementation challenges

More on Differing Perspectives



- The contribution of agriculture to the overall water efficiency estimates for 2030.
- Compliance with legal requirements
- Approach for market-based solutions to allocating or deciding who (or what) gets water when the supply cannot meet all demands.
- DWR's data presentation was the subject of much debate (as were all the numbers).



UNCERTAINTIES IN THE 05 PLAN

- Funding is severely restricted and consequences serious if recommended actions are not funded
- Actions to sustain water supply reliability are directed by local water agencies but plan does not have mechanisms to enforce
- Focus on integrated regional water management positive but document does not address leadership to support and oversee
- Scenarios need more development



More Unknowns

- Relies in part on the beneficiaries of water being the primary funders of new infrastructure -- No definition beneficiary and need to outline how the principle is to be implemented.
- Some express concern the plan does not address how regions will determine if they will collectively develop enough water both to meet the water needs of their local population and to produce food and other commodities needed by humanity at large.
- No specific mechanism to measure whether or not implementation of the plan or individual recommendations was successful.

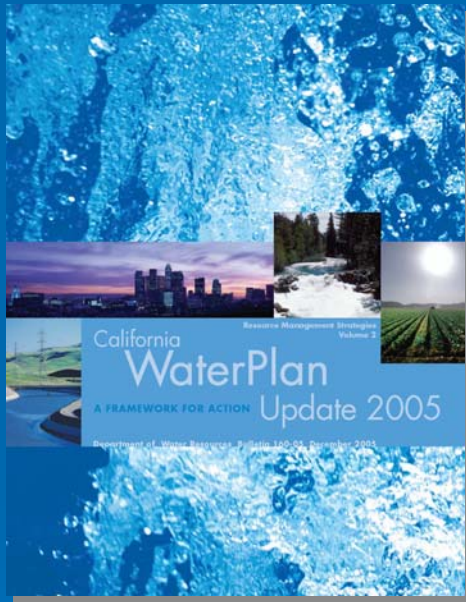
AC Members on the Road

AC Members assisted in explaining the new Water Plan approach at numerous public sessions throughout California.

They explained who the AC was, explained how the group came to be – including *past concerns that promoted legislation to create the AC in the current form, and how it worked.*



2005 Advisory Committee Public Sessions Workshop Topics



- *Consensus Seeking*
- *Prepare, review, retool*
- *General Findings*
- *Things that worked well*
- *Things that we didn't agree about*
- *The importance of public review and input – both positive and negative*
- *Acknowledgement and appreciation of the DWR staff that worked very hard to address the AC concerns*
- *Acknowledgement of the willingness of members to work together through the difficult issues.*

GOOD LUCK TO THE NEW AC

